

## Description of a New Species of the Genus

*Latiaxis* Swainson, 1840 from the South Mozambique Channel,  
Indian Ocean

(Gastropoda : Coralliophilidae)

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(1 Text figure)

RECENTLY, THROUGH THE COURTESY of Mrs. Helene Boswell of Valhalla, Transvaal, South Africa, I have had the opportunity to examine some specimens of the genus *Latiaxis* Swainson, 1840 which were trawled from the southern Mozambique Channel, Indian Ocean. A new species was amongst these specimens and is described as follows:

*Latiaxis (Babelomurex) helenae* Azuma, spec. nov.

Shell large for the genus *Latiaxis*; a fine crown shape at the lateral aspect of the shoulder keel for each whorl; solid, dirty white, with no gloss; spire very high; protoconch 2 whorls, very minute, dirty white; connected younger 5 whorls slightly expanded, with rather sharp shoulder keel and few spiral striations; penultimate whorl very large, abruptly expanded with strongly triangular shoulder keel; suture very deep; between suture to shoulder of each whorl no spiral striations; body whorl very large, with very strong shoulder keel with about 20 fin-shaped spines, about 25 spiral striae in all, and about 20 longitudinal ribs as nodules; aperture semi-circular to ovate in form, outer lip glossy, thickened and strongly rising into the shoulder keel; siphonal canal widely, parallel, curved backward; operculum light brown, rather thin, semi-circular with a nucleus situated in the centre of the outer side; umbilicus very wide and large, and the front spread rather strong and widely curved backwards, and with about 20 weak keels on the fasciole; callus narrow, glossy, and curved inwardly.

**Holotype:** Length 65 mm; width 42 mm; 9 whorls. Azuma Coll. No. 15944

**Paratype 1:** Length 73 mm; width 43 mm; 9 whorls. Helene Boswell Coll.

**Paratype 2:** Length 65 mm; width 43 mm; 9 whorls. Helene Boswell Coll.

**Type Locality:** 50 miles E of Inhaea Island, South Mozambique Channel, trawled in approximately 270 fathoms depth.

**Remarks:** This is a very rare species with only a few known specimens as yet. The conchological features of this new species show that it is closely related to *Latiaxis (Babelomurex) kawamurai* Kira, 1959, but it differs as follows: shell surface has no scale-like spiral striations; last whorl very large; umbilicus wide and largely open.

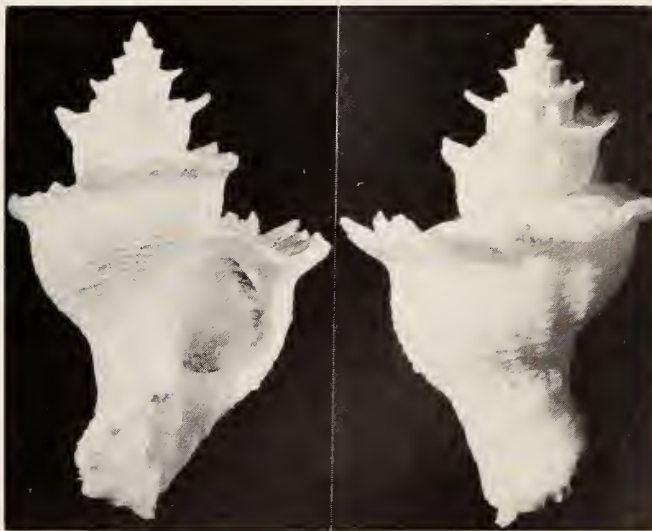


Figure 1

*Latiaxis (Babelomurex) helenae* Azuma, spec. nov.  
Dorsal and ventral aspects of the holotype